

TO COMFORT YOU

1 Thess 3:1-3

1 Th 3:1 ... *we could no longer forbear,*

When the suspense of separation and our yearning for some personal communication became intolerable

...we thought it good ... we decided to stay alone or be left behind in Athens

Alone: Silas in Berea. Paul alone in Athens.

Left: *"To leave loved ones at death."*

Timothy not join Paul in Athens but sent by Paul to Thessalonica to help get young church on its feet ... much opposition

Alone--idea of abandonment.

Application: important to person on front lines to have support team

1 Th 3:2

Description of Timothy

1. Brother

Born-again

Impossible to share that which we do not possess.

2. Minister

Servant, table waiter

1 Tim 4:6

Timothy knew how to be a servant.

A true servant:

- Realizes that main objective--make master look good.
- Willing to be inconvenienced
- Doesn't rely upon accolades and words of appreciation for doing his job.
- Does it because he loves the Lord!
 - Mark 10:43-45; 1 Cor 9:19; Gal 1:10
 - *You can tell a true servant by his response when being asked to be a servant*
- Doesn't have own agenda
- Agenda made by master
- Willing to put own plans and ideas on shelf to fulfill will and desires of master

3. *Fellow labourer in the gospel*

Works alongside you

Team player

Willing to let others take leadership to get job done

Not lazy

Tychicus in Col 4:7

Job description:

1. *Establish you*

Set fast, confirm, strengthen.

2 Pet 1:5-7

2. *Comfort concerning your faith,*

Encourage

John 14:16, 26 called alongside to help.

They needed someone to come and consistently encourage and strengthen and support them in the faith.

Timothy's was to get them to the place where they were solid and steady in their spiritual lives.

1 Th 3:3 *That no man should be moved by these afflictions: ...*

Unstable Christian: someone who is moved (become faint-hearted, disturbed, beguiled, led astray) by afflictions (become faint-hearted, disturbed, beguiled, led astray)

SO WHAT?

Description of us?

1. Brother ...born again
2. Minister ...servant
3. Fellow labourer in the gospel

Description of our job.

1. Establish
2. Comfort

Unstable Christian: someone who is moved (become faint-hearted, disturbed, beguiled, led astray) by afflictions